

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

United States Department of Agriculture

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FOX AND MINK FOODS STUDY WILL BENEFIT FUR FARMERS

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Fur farms in the United States, following a rapid development in the past 15 years, now produce about 300,000 silver-fox and 200,000 mink pelts annually, says the U. S. Biological Survey, yet many fundamental questions on handling these wild animals have never been answered well enough to prevent heavy losses to fur farmers.

Nutrition, one of the fundamental problems, is now being studied in a cooperative 5-year project recently inaugurated by the Biological Survey, and the Laboratory of Animal Nutrition at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. Dr. John K. Loosli, of the Survey, is in direct charge of the work, which is under the supervision of Dr. L. S. Maynard, director of the laboratory.

To study the nutritive requirements of the animals for growth, reproduction, and fur production, the scientists will make chemical analysis of the various feeds and combinations of feeds and will determine the percentage digested by the animals. Data will be obtained on the requirements for the various organic and mineral nutrients, including vitamins. Animals for the study have been furnished by the U. S. Fur Animal Experiment Station, maintained by the Biological Survey near Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

Doctor Loosli obtained his doctorate in animal nutrition from Cornell University in 1938. He is a graduate of Utah State Agriculture College and holds an M.S. degree in animal husbandry from Colorado State College.

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